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Czechoslovakia-USSR: Czechoslovak leaders have begun another round of negotiations with Soviet Premier Kosygin as both sides, despite the underlying tension, continue to conduct business in routine fashion.

Party leader Dubcek and Premier Cernik flew to Karlovy Vary on 22 May, presumably for further discussions with Kosygin. Both sides are attempting to give the impression that there is no urgency to the talks.

[The Czechoslovaks may be discussing credit with Kosygin, but may not be hopeful of obtaining a loan from the USSR on acceptable terms. Within the last few days, the Czechoslovaks reportedly requested a \$100-million loan from France, "no matter what the interest rate."]

Moscow has yet to reduce its psychological pressure against Prague by removing its troops positioned along the Czechoslovak borders, or by ending its press campaign against Czechoslovakia. Pravda continues to report selectively and to publish distorted stories on Czechoslovak developments. Czechoslovak journalists for their part continue to criticize their Soviet counterparts. The Berlin correspondent of Rude Pravo, the party's main daily, also lashed out at the East Germans yesterday.

The Czechoslovak party presidium yesterday reaffirmed in low-key fashion that the party intends to remain in effective control by enjoining other political parties from setting up youth organizations and by condemning "the attempts of a small group" to re-establish the Social Democratic Party. It also affirmed that Czechoslovakia will participate "actively" in the "international Communist movement." In another possible gesture to Moscow, the presidium stressed that Rude Pravo will be the principal voice of the party. It nevertheless asserted again that the party will carry out its reform program.

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